

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**February 2011 – Week 2**

**Air Date: February 6 – February 12 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: FIRE ON THE WATER**

FEBRUARY 1869 AND TRAGEDY ON A TEXAS LAKE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

FEBRUARY 12, 1869. CADDO LAKE. BOUND FOR JEFFERSON, THE SIDEWHEEL STEAMBOAT MITTIE STEPHENS IS PACKED WITH CARGO AND 107 PASSENGERS AND CREW.

AROUND MIDNIGHT, SPARKS FROM A NAVIGATIONAL TORCH LANDS IN A BALE OF HAY... AND THE SHIP IS ON FIRE.

IT HEADS TO SHORE – ONLY 300 YARDS AWAY – BUT RUNS AGROUND.

WITH THE BOW IN FLAMES, PEOPLE LEAP FROM THE STERN, AND GET PULLED INTO THE CHURNING SIDEWHEELS. SIXTY-ONE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH.

SOME SAY THEIR GHOSTS STILL HAUNT THE LAKE.

THE MITTIE STEPHENS BURNED 142 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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**J. Barto Arnold III, "MITTIE STEPHENS," *Handbook of Texas Online***  
(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/etm02>), accessed January 30, 2011

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
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